



Town of Ignacio Newsletter

April 5, 2020
Volume VI, Issue 4

Utility Billing and COVID-19

The billing for the Town of Ignacio Utilities will continue per our Utility Billing Policy. The changes effective during the COVID-19 crisis are as follows:

- No late fees were charged for the bill that was due on March 20. The Town Board will be considering future waivers of late fees.
- No utilities will be shut off due to non-payment until May 10; this may be extended even later, depending on how long the Stay-At-Home Advisory and any other restrictions are in place.

To keep updated on the current Executive Orders from Governor Polis and other governmental agencies, please visit the following websites:

- <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/>
- www.https://sjbpublichealth.org/
- <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>
- www.townofignacio.com

While the staff is not in the office due to the current Stay-At-Home Advisory, we are checking voicemail messages and emails, and responding to them.

The on-call number (970-759-3660) is for **utility emergencies ONLY**. If you have a utility billing question or need to notify the office of a change in tenancy, please leave a voicemail on the office phone (970-563-9494) and someone will respond to your inquiry. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

Ignacio Business Resources

Federal relief funding is forthcoming to the State of Colorado. All Ignacio businesses should apply for these funds if they qualify. For information on funding criteria and application processes, please visit www.yeslpc.com (website for La Plata County Economic Development Alliance).



Spring Clean Up & Town of Ignacio Burn Pile

Spring Clean Up was scheduled for April 30 - May 3; however, due to the current Stay-At-Home orders, Spring Clean Up is being postponed to a later date. Information will be forthcoming on the new scheduled date.

The burn pile will remain open for disposal of your tree limbs, grass clippings and other organic material, weather permitting. Please note that, if the ground is muddy, access to the Burn Pile will be closed until conditions are satisfactory. If you have questions, please call Town Hall (970-563-9494).

Municipal 2020 Election

The Town of Ignacio will hold its regular municipal election on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. This will be a drive-through/walk-up polling place election. The polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00PM. For those who are driving (which is strongly encouraged to comply with the CDC six-foot distancing guidelines), please enter the alley behind Subway from Highway 151. For those who need to walk up to the polls, please enter from Goddard Avenue and wait for direction from the election judge before approaching the first polling booth. We are working to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE:

As long as the Stay-At-Home Order is in place, these events will take place via Remote Public Meeting. Check the Town's website for information on how to access these meetings.

Town Board Meeting

Mon, April 6th
6:30PM

Easter

Sun, April 12th
Happy Easter!

Town Board Meeting

Mon, Apr 20th
6:30PM

If you smell natural gas

in your home or business, leave immediately! Do not turn light switches on or off, especially in the area you smell gas. Do not use your cell phone until you are outside and can no longer smell any gas. Call 911, the Fire Department (563-9501), or Dispatch (563-4401) if you smell gas at any time.



Si huele gas natural

en su casa o negocio, salga inmediatamente, sin pagar los interruptores de las luces, especialmente en el área que se siente olor a gas. ESPERAR a usar su teléfono celular hasta que ya no pueda oler el gas. Llame al número local de emergencias 911, al Departamento de Bomberos (563-9501), o diligencia al número 563-4401, si siente olor a gas en cualquier momento.



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Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Detectors

According to Colorado State Law, every home must have Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors installed. The smoke alarms must be installed both inside and outside of each sleeping room. Battery operated units should have a new battery installed every six (6) months.

Town Dumpsters

Dumpsters located at Town Parks or Facilities are not intended for personal use. Signs at each location detail allowed usage. Illegal dumping will result in possible fines and citations. Please do not use dumpsters illegally. Thank you.

Online Payments

You can pay your Town utility bill **ONLINE!** Go to the Town's website www.townofignacio.com and look for the "Pay Your Bill Online" link at the bottom of the home page. You will be charged a fee of \$1.00 for electronic checks, and \$0.75 + 2.25% of the transaction for debit or credit payments. As always, you can mail your payment, drop it in the night drop box (no cash, please) or come to Town Hall during regular business hours (8 AM - 5 PM Monday thru Friday). We are always happy to see you!

Town of Ignacio Facebook Page

The Town of Ignacio will use Facebook ("Town of Ignacio") to communicate and update our citizens on events, COVID-19 information, closures of facilities and roads, utility outages and/or disruptions, etc. The website is also updated often with important information. Please visit the website and Facebook page often, as we are trying to engage with our citizens and keep you updated.

WIC Program in Ignacio

San Juan Basin Public Health has a WIC office in Ignacio. If you are pregnant or have children under five years of age, you may be eligible for the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program. Please call the Durango office (970-335-2026) for more information or go to <https://sjbpublichealth.org/wic/>.

PLEASE NOTE: The office may be closed during the COVID-19 pandemic; please call to confirm that services are available.

Sexual Assault Services Organization

SASO has opened an office in Ignacio! They are located in the ELHI Community Center, Room 22. If you or someone you know is in need of their services, please call them at 970-563-0695. You can also visit them during their regular business hours: Monday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM; Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: The office may be closed during the COVID-19 pandemic; please call to confirm that services are available.

Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

LEAP runs November 1 through April 30. LEAP helps eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs. To apply, go to www.discovermygoodwill.org/LEAP.

Gratitude

Gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. People feel and express gratitude in multiple ways. They can apply it to the past (positive memories of past blessings), the present (not taking good things for granted), and the future (maintaining a hopeful and optimistic attitude). Gratitude is a quality that individuals can choose to increase.

Two psychologists, Dr. Robert A. Emmons of the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Michael E. McCullough of the University of Miami, have done much of the research on gratitude. In one study, they asked all participants to write a few sentences each week, focusing on particular topics. One group wrote about things they were grateful for that had occurred during the week. A second group wrote about daily irritations or things that had displeased them, and the third wrote about events that had affected them (with no emphasis on them being positive or negative). After 10 weeks, those who wrote about gratitude were more optimistic and felt better about their lives. They also exercised more and had fewer visits to physicians than those who focused on sources of aggravation.

During this difficult time, let's focus on gratitude. What are you thankful for?